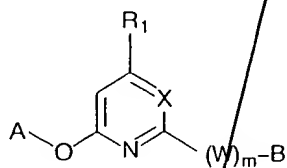


1. (previously amended) A method of increasing the efficacy of a herbicidal compound of formula IA

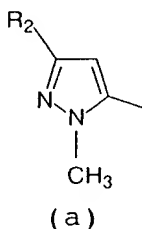
(not amended)



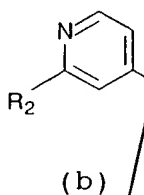
IA

wherein

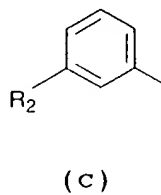
A represents a group of formula a, b, c or d:



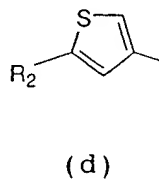
or



or



or



wherein R_2 is a halogen atom or a C_{1-3} haloalkyl or C_{1-3} haloalkoxy group;

B represents a phenyl, pyridyl, pyrazolyl or thienyl ring being optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms, alkyl, haloalkyl or haloalkoxy groups;

R_1 represents a hydrogen or halogen atom or an alkyl or alkoxy group;

X represents CH or N;

W represents -O-, -OCH₂- or -CONH-, and

m is 0 or 1,

which comprises applying an effective amount of said herbicidal compound directly to the soil in the form of a solid granule or powder which contains said herbicidal compound and at least one inert solid carrier.

3. (previously amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein

B represents a phenyl being optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms, alkyl, haloalkyl or haloalkoxy groups;

R₁ represents a hydrogen or halogen atom or an alkyl or alkoxy group;

X represents CH or N;

W represents -CONH-, and

m is 1.

4. (previously amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the herbicidal compound IA is N-(4-(fluorophenyl)-6-[3-(trifluoromethylphenyl)phenoxy]-2-pyridine carboxamide (picolinafen), or 4-(3-trifluoromethylphenoxy)-2-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)-pyrimidine (TTP).

5. (previously amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein said solid carrier is selected from the group consisting of kaolin or bentonite, silica, inorganic salts, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyvinylacetate, cyclodextrin, sugar and mixtures or copolymers thereof.

6. (previously amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the solid granule or powder comprises about

(a) 0.1 to 100 g/kg of a herbicidal compound of formula IA; and

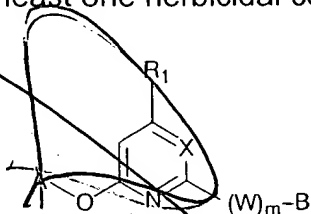
(b) 900 to 999.9 g/kg of at least one inert solid carrier, and optionally at least one solid auxiliary.

7. (previously amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the compound of formula IA is admixed with a second active compound which is selected from the group consisting of acifluorfen, aclonifen, alachlor, alloxymid, ametryn, amitrole, anilazine, anilofos, asulam, atrazine, azinphos-methyl, benazolin, benfluralin, benfuresate, bensulide, bentazone, benzofenap, bifenox, bromacil, brombutide, bromoxynil, butachlor, butamifos, butenachlor, butylate, carfentrazone-ethyl,

chloramben, chlorbromuron, chlorbufam, chlorimuron, chlornitrofen, chlortoluron, chlorthiamid, cinmethylin, clomozone, clopyralid, cyanazine, cycloate, 2,4-D, diamuron, desmetryn, dicamba, dichlobenil, dichloroprop-P, diclofop-methyl, dimefuron, dimepiperate, dimethachlor, dimethatryn, dimethenamid, dinitramine, dinotrerb, dithiopyr, escocarb, ethafluralin, ethofumesate, ethoxyfen-ethyl, fenoxaprop, fenuron, flamprop-M-isopropyl, flamprop-M-methyl, flazifop, fluchloralin, flufenacet, flumiozazin, flumeturon, fluroglycofen, flupoxam, fluridone, flurochloridone, flurprimidol, flurtamone, fluthiacet-methyl, fomesafen, glufosinate, haloxyfop, ioxynil, isoxaflutole, lactofen, linuron, mecoprop, mecoprop-P, mefenacet, metazachlor, metobenzuron, metobromuron, metolachlor, metoxuron, monolinuron, naproanilide, napropamide, naptalam, norflurazon, orbencarb, oxadiazon, oxyfluorfen, pebulate, pendimethalin, picloram, pretilachlor, prodiamine, prometrin, prometryn, propachlor, propanil, propisochlor, propyzamide, prosulfocarb, pyrazoxyfen, pyributicarb, siduron, tebuthiuron, terbacil, terbumeton, terbutylazine, terbutryn, thiazopyr, thiobencarb, thiocarbazil, triallate, trichlopyr and trifluralin.

8. (currently amended) A solid granule which comprises about

(a) 0.1 to 100 g/kg of at least one herbicidal compound of formula IA



IA

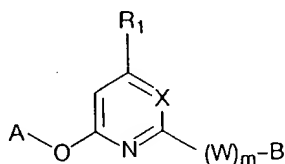
wherein A, B, R₁, X, W and m are defined as in claim 1, and X is N; and

(b) 900 to 999.9 g/kg of one or more solid carrier selected from the group consisting of granular gypsum, kaolin or bentonite, polyvinylpyrrolidone,

polyvinylacetate, cyclodextrin, sugar and mixtures or copolymers thereof, and optionally at least one solid auxiliary.

9. (currently amended) A solid granule ~~according to claim 8~~, which comprises about

(a) 0.1 to 100 g/kg of at least one herbicidal compound of formula IA

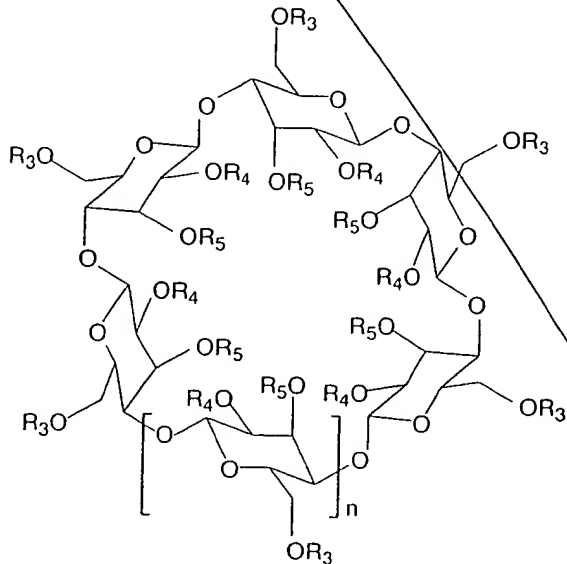


IA

wherein A, B, R_1 , X, W and m are defined as in claim 1; and

(b) 900 to 999.9 g/kg of one or more solid carrier comprising

wherein the solid carrier is a cyclodextrin of formula II



II

wherein

R_3 , R_4 and R_5 each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkanoyl or a C_{1-4} hydroxyalkyl group; and

n is 1, 2 or 3.

10. (currently amended) A solid granule according to claim 8 9, wherein the solid carrier is a cyclodextrin of formula II, wherein R_3 , R_4 and R_5 each represent a hydrogen atom and n is 2.

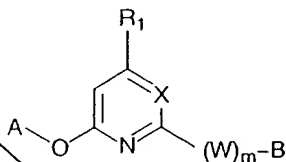
11. (currently amended) A solid granule according to claim 8 9, which comprises

(b1) 50 to 250 g/kg of one or more cyclodextrin of formula II; and

(b2) 650 to 949.9 g/kg of one or more solid carrier selected from the group consisting of granular gypsum, kaolin or bentonite, silica, inorganic salts, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyvinylacetate, sugar and mixtures or copolymers thereof and optionally at least one solid auxiliary.

12. (twice amended) A method for the control of undesired weeds at a locus which comprises treating said locus with a solid granule which consists essentially of

(a) 0.1 to 100 g/kg of at least one herbicidal compound of formula IA



IA

wherein A , B , R_1 , X , W and m are defined as in claim 1; and

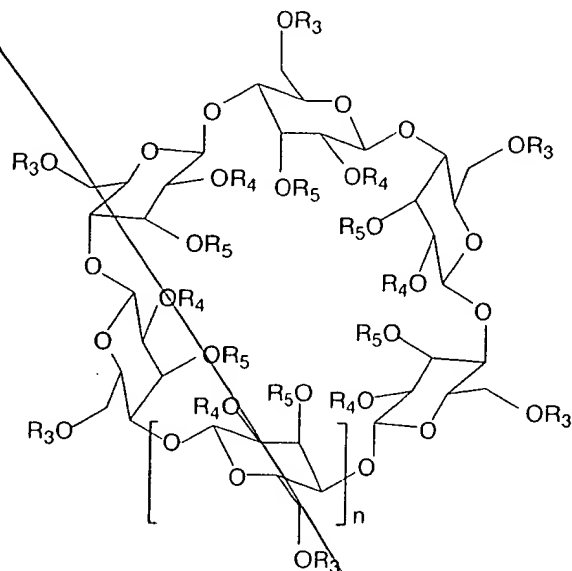
(b) 900 to 999.9 g/kg of one or more solid carrier selected from the group consisting of granular gypsum, kaolin or bentonite, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyvinylacetate, cyclodextrin, sugar and mixtures or copolymers thereof, and optionally at least one solid auxiliary.

13. (amended) A method according to claim 12 wherein said weeds are *Galium spp.* or *Alopecurus spp.*

14. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein R^2 is a chlorine atom, or a trifluoromethyl, pentafluoroethyl, trifluoromethoxy or difluoromethoxy group.

15. (new) A solid granule which consists essentially of

- (a) 0.1 to 100 g/kg of at least one herbicidal compound which is 2',4'-difluoro-2-(α,α,α -trifluoro-m-tolyloxy)-nicotinamide (diflufenican); and
- (b) 900 to 999.9 g/kg of one or more solid carrier comprising a cyclodextrin of formula II



II

wherein

R_3 , R_4 and R_5 each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkanoyl or a C_{1-4} hydroxyalkyl group; and

n is 1, 2 or 3;

and optionally at least one solid auxiliary.

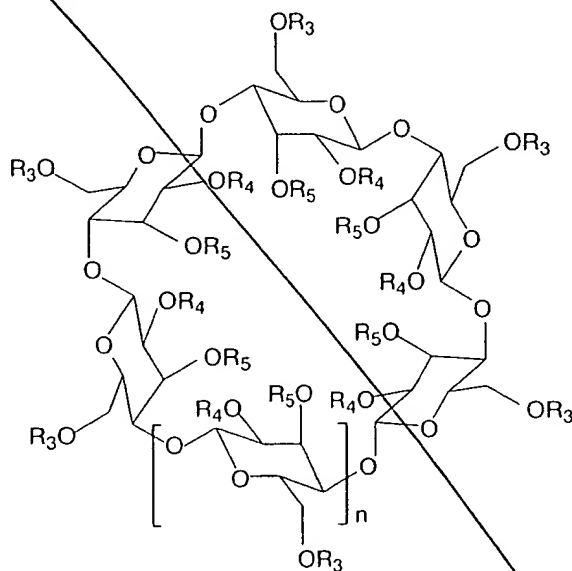
16. (new) The solid granule according to claim 15, wherein R_3 , R_4 and R_5 each represent a hydrogen atom and n is 2.

17. (new) The solid granule according to claim 15, which comprises

- (b1) 50 to 250 g/kg of one or more cyclodextrin of formula II; and
- (b2) 650 to 949.9 g/kg of one or more solid carrier selected from the group consisting of granular gypsum, kaolin or bentonite, silica, inorganic salts, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyvinylacetate, sugar and mixtures or copolymers thereof, and optionally at least one solid auxiliary.

18. (new) A method for the control of undesired weeds at a locus which comprises treating said locus with a solid granule which consists essentially of

- (a) 0.1 to 100 g/kg of at least one herbicidal compound which is 2',4'-difluoro-2-(α,α,α -trifluoro-m-tolyloxy)-nicotinamide (diflufenican); and
- (b) 900 to 999.9 g/kg of one or more solid carrier comprising a cyclodextrin of formula II



II

wherein

R_3 , R_4 and R_5 each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkanoyl or a C_{1-4} hydroxyalkyl group; and

n is 1, 2 or 3;

and optionally at least one solid auxiliary.

19. (new) The method according to claim 18 wherein said weeds are *Galium* spp. or *Alopecurus* spp.